"The WPI is possibly a better approximation to the producer price index because of the inclusion and relatively larger weight of intermediate and capital goods and absence of the coverage of services. It is an unsatisfactory indicator of rate of changes of prices of consumer goods with which our everyday experience of inflation is associated."

(b) Government is aware that the methodology and basis of calculation of WPI and CPI are different and, therefore, the information contained in these indices are different.

(c) and (d) The WPI is compiled on a weekly basis while the CPI is compiled on a monthly basis. There are four Consumer Price Indices, constructed for specific user groups, such as industrial workers, urban non-manual employees, agricultural labourers and rural labourers. The weeks during which WPI was estimated to be zero and below zero is given in the following table. The corresponding CPI Index is available for May 2009.

Inflation rate based on WPI and CPI (Percent)

	WPI	CPI-IW	CPI-UNME	CPI-AL	CPI-RL
Week ending Base	93-94	1982	84-85	86-87	86-87
27.6.2009	-1.55				
20.6.2009	-1.3				
13.6.2009	-1.14				
6.6.2009	-1.61				
30.5.2009	+0.13	8.63*	-	10.21*	10.21*

* These are indices for the month of May, 2009

The reasons for the rise in the prices of essential commodities and eatables is due to the combined effect of factors such as growing demand on account of increase in population and income, hardening of international prices, changes in consumption pattern, diversion of food grains for fuel, adverse weather and climate change, increase in crude oil prices, improvement in income and living standards and increase in freight rates.

Problems faced by cancer patients

*219. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Central Government Employees and pensioners suffering from cancer are harassed and tormented as no private hospital treating cancer is on Government's panel and the patients have to make payment for treatment to the hospital and claim reimbursement later on at C.G.H.S. rates fixed in 2001, there also being a wide difference between the payment made and reimbursement admissible; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to remedy the situation and by when decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) CGHS can empanel only those private hospitals as are willing to be empanelled and are agreeable to terms and conditions and the package rates that emerge on the basis of tenders floated by CGHS. Private hospitals are required to quote their rates for various procedures. The last tender that was notified was in 2004 and revised package rates on the basis of the response to this tender came into effect from 2006-07.

In respect of rates for treatment of cancer, it was found that the rates that emerged from out of the tender process of 2004 were substantially lower than the rates in vogue from 2001-02. Consequently, most cancer hospitals refused to accept the revised rates. In order not to deprive the CGHS beneficiaries the treatment for cancer related illness, it was decided to permit CGHS beneficiaries to get treatment in any hospital providing treatment for cancer and get reimbursement at 2001-02 rates.

When the CGHS initiates action to revise rates for all procedures, it is hoped that a realistic package rate will emerge for cancer treatment.

AGMARK certification to horticulture products

*220. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the agency that gives AGMARK certification to horticulture products;

(b) how is any horticulture product selected for the AGMARK certification;

(c) how many horticulture products have been certified so far as AGMARK;

(d) whether the certification of any horticulture product covers all the varieties of these products irrespective of regional variants; and

(e) how does Government propose to involve the State Government agencies in the certification process?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) AGMARK Certification to all Agriculture products including horticulture products is given by the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI) in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, approved State Grading laboratories, approved commercial laboratories and authorized packers under the provisions of Agricultural Produce (Grading & Marking) Act, 1937.

(b) Commodities are selected on the basis of demand from trade, on the basis of commercial utilization or consumer interest in domestic as well as international market.

(c) DMI has notified grade standards of 43 fruits and vegetables, 23 spices and 07 other horticulture commodities. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below). All these